

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent in person interview on April 4, 2006. The amendments made by this paper are consistent with the proposals discussed during the interview.

The Office Action, mailed February 21, 2006, considered claims 1-12, 14-41, and 43-48. Claims 1-12, 14-41, and 43-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lalwaney (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,377).¹ Claims 43-46 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter and claims 1-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.² As proposed during the interview, claims 43 and 45 have been amended to recite physical computer-readable media, and the independent claims have been amended to remove the material considered indefinite by the Examiner.

By this paper, the independent claims (1, 22, 25, 43 and 45) have been amended, and various dependent claims (2-10, 14-17, 19-21, 23-26, 29-34 and 47) have been amended to be consistent with the amended independent claims.³ Claims 11, 12, 44, 46 and 48 have been cancelled, and claims 49-51 have been added, such that following this paper, claims 1-10, 14-41, 43, 45, 47 and 49-51 remain pending.

The claims are generally directed to a system for automatically obtaining email configuration information to allow a computing system to access email without the need for the configuration information to be manually entered by a user. In claim 1, for example, a requesting computer system is in network communication with a configuration computer system and accesses an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, and the identifier corresponds to email services of an email service provider that consumer modules will use. The

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² The Office Action also noted that the relationship between Figure 1 and the claims was unclear. As discussed during the interview, a mobile telephone such as mobile telephonic device 100 in Figure 1 can act as a requesting, consuming, or configuration computer system, while the modules 112-116 can individually or collectively act as consuming modules. This relationship is clarified throughout the specification, and clearly described in paragraphs 40 and 47 of the original application. (See also paragraphs 9, 25, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 41, 55, 60, 62 and 63).

³ Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout Applicants' specification, including at least the disclosure found in paragraphs 3, 9, 11, 14, 17, 26, 29, 30, 32, 37, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 51, 55, 56, 60, 62, 65, 68 and 72, and in Figures 1-3, of the originally filed application.

requesting computer system automatically causes a search for configuration information associated with the email services represented by the identifier and sends the identifier to a configuration computer system that responsively uses the identifier to identify the appropriate configuration information. The configuration resulting from the search is then accessed and provided to one or more consumer modules to enable them to utilize the email services. As clarified in the amended claims, the consumer modules may be located within a mobile electronic device (claim 49) such as a telephone (claim 50), and/or the requesting computer system may be a distributed system that includes a consuming computer system which accesses the configuration information (claim 51).

Independent claim 22 is directed to a similar method, but recited in functional (step for) language, while independent claim 25 is directed to a similar method from the perspective of the configuration computer. Independent claims 43 and 45 are directed to computer program products that include physical computer-readable media that carry computer-executable instructions for implementing the methods of claims 1 and 25, respectively.

It was clarified during the interview how the present claims are clearly distinguished from the art of record, for at least the fact that Lalwaney appears to be directed to obtaining an IP address for a one-directional cable modem within a client PC so as to enable the cable modem to receive broadcast broadband signals, but without regard to email services. In particular, Lalwaney appears to teach a system in which a client PC initiates a request message which is sent from a phone modem and ultimately directed to the operator of the cable broadband services which assigns an IP address. Lalwaney clearly fails to disclose or suggest, among other things, a method for automatically configuring modules that consume email services, wherein a requesting computer system accesses an identifier that includes at least a portion of an email address and which corresponds to email services of an email service provider, in which the identifier and the included portion of the email address are automatically sent to a configuration computer which responsively uses the identifier to identify configuration information then provided to the requesting computer system, as claimed.

Lalwaney was distinguished from the present invention during the interview for at least this reason, as well as others. Lalwaney is also distinguished from the new dependent claims which recite corresponding embodiments that clarify that the consumer modules are within a mobile device (claim 49) such as a telephone (claim 50), and that clarify that the requesting

computing system may be a distributed system including a consuming computer system which accesses the email configuration information (claim 51). Lalwaney discloses a client PC, but fails to teach or suggest that the client PC is a mobile device or telephone, or that the system is distributed such that the consuming computer system accesses the email configuration information.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action, including any official notice, at any appropriate time in the future, should it arise.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are neither anticipated by nor made obvious by the art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds and remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 19 day of May, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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